

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1-39. (cancelled)

40. (New) An animal toenail covering having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail, said polymeric sheath comprising:

internal anticline cleats and an external coating of polymer encompassing at least a portion of said polymeric sheath.

41. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 40 wherein said external coating of polymer has a hardness greater than that of said polymeric sheath.

42. (New) The animal toe nail covering according to claim 40 wherein said polymeric sheath and said external coating of polymer are different colors.

43. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 40 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises a partial delamination between said polymeric sheath and a portion of said external coating of polymer.

44. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 40 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises at least an adhesive element.

45. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 44 wherein said adhesive element is a liquid adhesive inserted between said polymeric sheath and said external coating of polymer.

46. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 40 further comprising a textured inner wall surface.

47. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 44 wherein said adhesive element is an adhesive powder.

48. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 44 wherein said adhesive

element is an aerosol.

49. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 47 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to tooling used in a dip molding process for forming said polymeric sheath.

50. (New) The animal toenail covering according to claim 49 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to said tooling by electrostatic means.

51. (New) A polymeric animal toenail covering having an internal cavity and an external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal toenail for incasing an animal toenail said sheath comprising:

a plurality of pliable anticline cleats located within said internal cavity protruding inwardly and an external coating of polymer encompassing at least a portion of said sheath.

52. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 51 wherein said external coating has a greater hardness than said covering.

53. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 51 wherein said coating is a different color than said sheath.

54. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 51 wherein said coating is applied to said sheath in manner whereby a void is formed between said coating and a portion of said sheath.